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AT SCHOOL & AT HOME.

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*Britannia claiming the Elements
of Polite Education.*

AT SCHOOL & AT HOME;

OR,

SCENES IN EARLY LIFE.



A Tale

FOR YOUNG LADIES.

BY MISS F****.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR A. K. NEWMAN AND CO.

1828.

AT SCHOOL & AT HOME:

AN ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED

LIST OF THE

WORKS OF

LORDS

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AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME;

OR,

SCENES IN EARLY LIFE.

CHAP. I.

MISS SEYMOUR'S SCHOOL.

AT the small but romantic village of Broadstairs, in Kent, stood Rose Cottage, a low square building, in the midst of a garden, its white walls covered with the fragrant flowers from which it derived its name. The humble portico of Rose Cottage fronted the sea; the side commanded a view of Lord KEITH's house and the road on the cliffs which led to Ramsgate. The traveller who

passed of an evening in the summer and saw the happy beings who were sporting around the garden, or chasing each other across the hedges that formed their boundaries, would have been ready to exclaim with our immortal Gray,

“ Alas ! where ignorance is bliss,

“ 'Tis folly to be wise.”

Miss SEYMOUR was the daughter of a respectable tradesman, and had been educated with the greatest care and attention, that she might be able to fill either the situation of Instructress in a gentleman's family, or in a select school.

By the untimely death of her father, at a time when his affairs were very much involved, she found herself called upon, at the age of twenty, to support a widowed mother and an infant sister.

By the advice of her friends, she pur-

chased Rose Cottage, a seminary just vacated by the death of the lady who superintended it. The number of young Ladies had been limited to six, and as the terms agreed on by their friends, were extremely liberal, and Miss SEYMOUR thought she could do far more justice by attending entirely to the morals and education of these young ladies than by taking a larger number and employing assistants, she had at present no thoughts of increasing the school.

On her entrance as mistress of Rose Cottage, Miss SEYMOUR was received by her pupils with that confidence and affection, which the urbanity of her manners demanded.

She sympathized with them on the loss of their preceptress, and hoped that she should supply her place both to

their happiness and improvement ; but the memory of their governess was too fresh in their minds to be easily effaced, and tears were the only answer she received.

Miss SEYMOUR, though she blamed the indulgence of an improper sensibility, yet thought the tears of her new pupils on this occasion did honour both to their hearts and understandings, and, without appearing to observe them during the first days of her arrival, and before instruction commenced, took an accurate survey of their dispositions ; as she was of opinion, that it is impossible to instruct children in a proper manner without being fully acquainted with their good or bad qualities. The result of her observations shall be given in the next chapter.

CHAP. II.

CHARACTERS.

AMELIA MILDMA Y, the eldest of the young ladies, had just reached her fifteenth year; in person she was remarkably beautiful, her height above what is called the middle stature, and her abilities such as would do honour to whoever might become her instructress; her heart was naturally good, but she possessed one fault that was nearly sufficient to blot out every good quality—this was an incorrigible vanity: in vain had her parents, or the late Mrs. JONES, tried to root out this weed. AMELIA had too high an opinion of herself to attend to their advice, and as she was heiress to a large fortune, advice was the only means to which they had re-

course; the consequence was, that AMELIA stood on a proud eminence, almost venerated by her schoolfellows, as she was very generous, and possessed ample means to be so; and when did generosity ever fail to win the hearts of children? Their opinion of her abilities will be better developed by themselves in the following pages, than by giving it at present.

Next on the list, stood CHARLOTTE TEMPEST, a mild pretty looking girl, of moderate capacity, but whose temper was the reverse of her countenance; for, before the age of fourteen, CHARLOTTE'S ungoverned passions had tired three private governesses and two or three schools; at Mrs. JONES'S she had been scarce a month, when the death of that lady, to use her own words, "removed one tyrant to make

way for another"; yet CHARLOTTE possessed many good qualities; and it required nothing but a little judgment to induce her to struggle against her faults, and overcome them, as often they had overcome her.

Wild as the goat on her native hills, yet bending to the gentlest control, was the lovely GRACE JAIMESEN; a little Welsh girl who had lost her mother; and her father having married a lady with two grown daughters, whose feelings were too refined to bear GRACE'S Welsh accent, she was exiled to Mrs. JONES'S, where as happy as she could be, when absent from her father, GRACE improved daily; and though she was perfectly conscious of having lost the accent so offensive to the ears of Misses FANNY and CLEMENTINA ROBARTS! yet she felt no wish to

return home while they inhabited it. Convinced that no arts could ever estrange her from the heart of her parent, she devoted her whole time and attention to improvement, that if she should ever be in company with her sisters-in-law, her beloved father might not have cause to blush for his GRACE.

ELIZA SCOTT and JESSIE FOWLER were first cousins, and having neither of them attained their twelfth year, their characters were not sufficiently formed to need any notice at present; they will speak for themselves far better than I can pourtray them.

If ever there existed in this age, a perfect child of nature, one who, whether her opinions were right or wrong, always gave them; and invariably acted, both in a good or bad cause, from the impulse of the moment, it was CA-

ROLINE HUNTER. Sent by a fond parent, at the age of thirteen, from Antigua, for education, her guardian had placed her at Rose Cottage. In her own native isle, she had been bred in the strictest seclusion, as her parents were too well aware of the state of society in the West Indies, to allow her to mix in general assemblies ; therefore, to her every thing was new, and from the simplest object she reaped a delight, which a more cultivated mind is incapable of feeling. At the period my history commences, she had been a year at the Cottage, sincerely beloved by every inhabitant of it.

Having thus introduced my young friends to my readers, I shall leave them to their fate ; feeling perfectly secure of an impartial judgment, whether in their favour or against them.

CHAP. III.

SCHOOL COMMENCES.

AFTER a week spent in preparation for what was to be their daily exercise, Miss SEYMOUR called her scholars together, and thus addressed them :

“ It is impossible for me, my beloved pupils, to convey to you in words, half the interest I feel for your improvement ; my exertions will, I trust, speak for me, and it will ever be the height of my ambition to give satisfaction to your friends, and to promote your happiness and welfare. I have formed a plan for your education, which, though it may appear difficult at first, must, I think, ultimately succeed ; but I must first request to be informed, in what method you have been instructed, and what

benefit you have received from those instructions.

AMELIA MILD MAY, as the eldest, being desired to speak, answered: “ My dear madam, as my companions wish me to speak for them all, I will give you an account of a week’s studies ; for we pursued one regular course of education every week. On Monday morning, the first thing on entering school, we repeated our lessons in spelling and grammar ; we then worked till twelve, when we read, separately, a lesson in GOLDSMITH’S History of England ; in the afternoon, we had lessons from PINNOCK’S Historical Catechisms. Tuesday was principally devoted to geography and the use of the terrestrial globe, for though I have often requested to be taught astronomy, Mrs.

JONES invariably refused, alleging that it was beyond my capacity."

"And you, my love," replied Miss SEYMOUR, "appear to have differed with her in that point. Give me leave to ask you one question; are you sufficiently acquainted with the terrestrial globe to solve any problem I may state?"

AMELIA looked down, but she did not reply; while GRACE called out, "Oh, indeed, she is perfect, pray try her, dear madam."

"No, my love," answered Miss SEYMOUR, "I would not wish to humble her in your opinion, as I am convinced she could not answer all the problems. As you must feel conscious of this, my dear Miss MILDMA Y, give up at present the idea of traversing the

heavens, till you are perfectly acquainted with the earth; and be assured I will not delay one hour beyond the time I think you competent to begin astronomy, or any other science you may have capacity and inclination for; the rest of the week, I suppose, was divided between spelling, grammar, history, writing, and arithmetic, &c.”

“ Yes, madam,” said AMELIA in an humbled tone; for she wanted not for sense, and she perceived that Miss SEYMOUR had not quite so high an opinion of her abilities as she herself had.

“ Very well, my love, I do not wish for further particulars. I beg you will, all of you, refresh your memories in your geography, against Monday, when we shall commence, and I trust I shall find you all well prepared; till then,

amuse yourselves as you think proper: I am convinced you will not make an ill use of this interval."

CHAP. IV.

GEOGRAPHY.

By ten, on Monday morning, the young ladies were all assembled round Miss SEYMOUR, who, in a few words, explained the plan she wished them to follow. They then took their seats round the table, and AMELIA, as the eldest, being desired to choose a subject, expressed a preference for the geography of her own country, and began as follows:

"Great Britain is bounded on the north by the Northern Ocean; on the south, by the British Channel; on the

west, by the Atlantic Ocean ; and on the east, by the German Sea.”

“ The united kingdom,” continued CHARLOTTE TEMPEST “ consists of two large islands, Great Britain and Ireland, and various small ones : Great Britain is divided into England, Wales, and Scotland ; it is six hundred miles long, and three hundred broad,—”

“ And contains thirteen millions of inhabitants,” interrupted JESSIE FOWLER.

“ Let me warn you, my love,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “ never to interrupt your schoolfellows : Miss TEMPEST most probably meant to have mentioned how many inhabitants Great Britain contains.”

“ Yes, Ma’am,” said CHARLOTTE ; “ this is not the first time Miss Fow-

LER has been guilty of rudeness, and particularly to me; but," continued she, colouring with passion, "thank Heaven! my temper is not irritable; I can bear with impertinence."

"But, I cannot, Miss TEMPEST," answered Miss SEYMOUR, mildly, "and I think your using such language, or suffering yourself to be led away by passion, in my presence, very blameable. If your companions are guilty of rudeness to you, or to each other, I feel myself fully competent to chastise them. Had you behaved differently, Miss Fowler should have made an apology; but as it is, you have lowered yourself too much to need any apology."

"I neither need nor wish any excuse," said the perverse CHARLOTTE,

“ as I shall never speak to JESSIE again, and that is the best way to avoid her insolence.”

“ Then, while that resolution lasts, I must beg you to leave my table, and retire to the other end of the room : as soon as you feel yourself ashamed of your conduct, and like to apologise to me and your companions, you may return.” CHARLOTTE retired to the window, while poor JESSIE, who was sincerely sorry for what had past, begged Miss SEYMOUR to forgive her.

“ No, my love, I must desire you will not interfere ; Miss TEMPEST has passions which want curbing, and which, if they are suffered to keep root in her mind, will render her, and all around her, unhappy. Now continue your class, which has been so unpleasantly interrupted.”

“ I know some very pretty lines, Ma'am,” said GRACE ;” may I repeat them ?”

“ Certainly, my dear.”

GRACE, in a clear distinct tone, repeated the following lines :

“ A fairer isle than Britain, never Sun
Viewed in his wide career : a lovely spot
For all that life can ask : salubrious ; mild.
Its hills are green, its woods and prospects fair ;
Its meadows fertile ; and, to crown the whole,
In one delightful word, it is our home,
Our native isle.”

“ Great Britain,” continued CAROLINE HUNTER, “ is the mistress of the seas ; and her wealth and commerce are unequalled ; while the industry of her inhabitants, her constitution, and her independence, render her an object of admiration to all nations.”

“ I can tell you another thing, in

which Great Britain is peculiarly happy," said ELIZA SCOTT. She was going on, but the hall clock struck *one*, and, to their great regret, Miss SEYMOUR rose to retire. "Oh, what a short morning this has been," said they. "When you are well employed, my dears, your time will always pass quickly : we will now go to dinner ; at three we will assemble, and you shall continue this morning's lesson."

CHAP. V.

THE ALTERCATION.

AFTER Miss SEYMOUR had quitted the school room, each young lady employed herself as she thought proper, till the clock striking two should call

them to dinner: AMELIA took up her netting; while CAROLINE, who was passionately fond of music, opened one of the instruments to practise *the Storm*. GRACE took a pair of dumb bells, an exercise which agreed with her high spirits; ELIZA and JESSIE amused themselves with a small book of questions and answers on English history: thus all were employed, and happy, except CHARLOTTE, who still remained at the window to which she had retired. After a short pause, AMELIA said,

“CHARLOTTE, do you mean to spend this hour, or, more properly speaking, waste it in idleness?”

“That cannot concern you, Miss MILD MAY,” said the perverse girl; “this hour I may do as I please; and

I will have a hard struggle to do so always: if she conquers me, she must be something very remarkable."

"You will repent this behaviour, CHARLOTTE," said the gentle GRACE, going up to her; "let me persuade you to be reconciled to JESSIE, and to apologize to our kind instructress."

"Never, GRACE; and if you are really my friend, you will not persuade me."

"As I am most sincerely your friend, my dear girl, I cannot allow you to remain ill-tempered or unhappy; see," said she, pointing to her school-fellows, who had ceased to notice them, and were gathered round the piano, to listen to a beautiful passage in the piece CAROLINE was playing; "see how happy they are; come, my dear CHARLOTTE, come to us; I am convinced

JESSIE will not require any excuse for your unkindness this morning; come, and be as happy as we are;" and, taking her hand, she attempted to draw her from the window; but, snatching away her hand, CHARLOTTE hastily answered, "I am not unhappy here, Miss JAMIESON; and I shall feel still happier if you will be kind enough to leave me to myself."

The affectionate GRACE still lingered, and fancying she saw signs of repentance in CHARLOTTE's eyes, she again tried to take her hand; when, provoked beyond the power to bear, she slapped GRACE's face, so as to make the room echo. All the young ladies started, as if electrified; and their exclamations alarming Miss SEYMOUR, who was in the adjoining room, she entered to inquire what was the matter. On her

opening the room door, she beheld a strange scene; the music stool had fallen to the ground, with CAROLINE'S starting up; AMELIA, with her work at her feet, stood as if petrified; CHARLOTTE raised her eyes, which still darted fire. The only person who appeared unconcerned was GRACE; she stood a few paces from the angry girl, smiling with the most perfect good-nature, though one of her cheeks bore the marks of CHARLOTTE'S five fingers.

“For heaven's sake! what is the meaning of this?” said Miss SEYMOUR. They were all silent. She repeated her question; still no answer.

“As you, Miss JAIMESEN, appear to have been the only sufferer in this affray, I command you to give me an explicit account of what has happened.”

“Pray, dear madam, do not ask

me: indeed I cannot tell you: for worlds I would not utter an untruth."

"It is the truth I require, Miss JAMIESON; and again I desire you to explain what this disturbance means."

GRACE burst into tears.; and, "Oh! indeed I cannot tell," was her only answer. CHARLOTTE stood perfectly still, her eyes fixed on the ground.

"Then if you will not tell me," said Miss SEYMOUR, calmly, taking GRACE by the hand, "I must be under the necessity of ordering you to your own chamber, till you have conquered your apparent obstinacy."

GRACE dried her tears in an instant, and prepared to follow her governess, without even casting a look at CHARLOTTE; but her quick glance at her other companions warned them to silence. This was more than CHAR-

LOTTE could bear ; she burst into tears, and throwing herself on GRACE's neck, exclaimed, " Oh ! she is not obstinate ; it is I alone that am guilty ; she is exalted far above me ; and shamefully as I have treated her, she would have suffered punishment rather than betray me." Then, raising her head from GRACE's shoulder, she addressed Miss SEYMOUR :

" I have acted this morning not only perversely, but wickedly ; I have behaved insolently to you, Madam, and pettishly to JESSIE ; and the return I made to the affectionate kindness of GRACE, was,—oh, how must passion have blinded me ! It was a blow. You may forgive me, and she may ; but I can never, never, forgive myself : had I had any offensive weapon in my hand, oh heaven forgive me, I might have—

then bursting into a fresh flood of grief, her head sunk again on the neck of the kind hearted GRACE, who looked at Miss SEYMOUR with an imploring eye for pardon. Her look was understood.

“ I shall not punish Miss TEMPEST, my love,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “ she may inflict on herself whatever punishment she thinks she merits ; and I sincerely hope this will be the last time she will have occasion to reproach herself with giving way to her passion.”

“ Oh, madam,” answered CHARLOTTE, “ had I always been treated thus mildly, I should not now have to reproach myself ; but my violence has always been answered with equal violence : and as I knew, by experience, that if I could hold out longest, I was sure to conquer, I became what I am ; but what I trust I never shall be again.

You cannot punish me as I deserve, dear madam, that is impossible ; but as I am to fix my own punishment, I will exile myself from my companions for a month, with the exception of the time devoted to instruction ; in solitude I shall have time to reflect, and by the expiration of this time, I trust I shall be worthy their society."

"The young ladies attempted to interfere, as they thought her punishment, though self-inflicted, far too severe: Miss SEYMOUR thought so too, yet she thought solitude necessary, so agreed to mitigate half of the time. The dinner bell now rung, and CHARLOTTE retired to her room, where she took her meal alone."

CHAP. VI.

GIVE IT A NAME.

THE dinner was soon cleared, as they were none inclined to eat ; all their spirits were depressed with the events of the morning, and particularly poor JESSIE, who reproached herself as the primary cause of all that had happened. “ For,” said she, “ if I had not interrupted her, she would not have been in a passion, and all this unhappy dispute would have been saved.”

“ For to-day, my love, perhaps it might ; but the first idle word that occurred in the course of conversation, would have given rise to the same burst of passion,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “ and I trust that very good consequences may result from your inadvertence ;

yet interruptions, when any one is speaking, is a very great rudeness, and one, I hope, you will never be guilty of again."

"JESSIE is a good little girl, and I will answer for her good behaviour in future," said CAROLINE, tapping her on the back.

"Do not be so ready to answer for the conduct of another," said AMELIA ; "I do not mean to say JESSIE will not behave well, but you are too ready to stake your faith on her behaviour."

"If she gives me occasion to recal my words," answered CAROLINE, "I will send her to the plantations, where I fear I should be tempted to accompany her."

"Why, my dear," said Miss SEYMOUR, "would you wish to return to

your own country, in preference to remaining in England."

"Oh, yes," answered CAROLINE, her eyes sparkling—"my Mother; my Father—are there, and my own dear, dear, MARY ANNA. My guardian is very kind, and my friends are all very good, but there is no place like home; Oh, I should be ready to jump through the roof, if I thought to reach you:" and she began to sing, in a cheerful tone,

"Then stay with your wife and your children so comely,
For home, love, is home, be it ever so homely."

"At present, my love, there is no occasion to show us your activity in leaping through the roof, as you will not be any nearer home," but the clock warns us to be nearer school;

“do one of you summon Miss TEMPEST.”

Off flew GRACE without waiting a second command, and the rest proceeded to the school room.

GRACE soon returned, followed by CHARLOTTE, who, with downcast eyes, took her seat among her companions without speaking a word; a faint buz had arisen on her entrance, but silence being restored, Miss SEYMOUR said, “can any of you give me a description of the Arabs.”

“The Arabs, in Judea, Egypt, and Barbary, are rather tall; they lead a wandering life,” said CAROLINE, “and are nearly all robbers, yet their demeanor is extremely haughty; they are well made and active, and have a sympathizing and gentle look;” then,

turning to GRACE, she said, “ can you continue : I have forgotten what follows.”

“ Nothing, in their appearance,” said GRACE, “ proclaims the savage ; but when they speak, you hear a harsh and strongly aspirated language, and perceive long and beautiful white teeth, shaped like those of Jackalls and Ounces.”

“ Yet,” said CHARLOTTE, in a low tone, “ their language must be very musical, though it may sound harsh, since it admits of such beautiful poetry : in Mr. FORSTER’s edition of the Arabian Nights, there are some pieces, which, he says, are translated from the Arabians, and which struck me as particularly pretty.”

“ Oh, do repeat one,” said ELIZA,

“ I am so fond of poetry. Will you be kind enough, madam, to permit her to do so.”

“ Willingly,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “ provided it does not take too much of our time.”

“ The one I particularly noticed,” said CHARLOTTE, “ was spoken extempore by a Dervise ; who, as he was returning from a pilgrimage to Mecca, alone and unattended, met his Caliph going thither, with a most splendid retinue ; it is as follows :

“ Religion’s gems can ne’er adorn
The flimsy robe, by Pleasure worn ;
Their feeble texture soon would tear,
And give those jewels to the air.

“ Far happier they, who seek th’ abode
Of peace and pleasure in their God ;
Who scorn the world ; its joys despise ;
And grasp at bliss beyond the skies.”

“I do not think there is much beauty in the lines,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “but the idea is pretty ; besides, there is great allowance to be made for their being extempore.”

“Pray, ma’am,” said JESSIE, “what is the meaning of writing or speaking poetry extempore.”

“It is a talent, my love, that very few possess,” answered Miss SEYMOUR, “at least in England ; it consists in making poetry at the instant the subject is given, without any previous consideration : in Italy, this gift is common, those who possess it are called ‘improvisatori ;’ it is not confined to those who have received superior education ; you may sometimes meet a beggar in the street, and, on giving him a subject, he will burst into a strain of poetry that to us is astonishing.”

“ Have you ever heard one of these inspired poets, ma’am,” asked AMELIA.

“ No, my love,” answered Miss SEYMOUR, “ I never did ; I knew a gentleman who was extremely intimate with one ; he was in England some little time since ; he was introduced into the first circles, and generally admired ; he possessed the power of speaking extempore in an eminent degree ; being requested, one evening, to speak on the judgment of Brutus, he gave a scene that lasted near three quarters of an hour ; and, on committing it to paper, every period was found to be harmonic and well turned. In Italy, rich people retain an improvisatore in their houses, to amuse their guests ; there is a very good specimen of their manner of reciting in *Fazio*, or the *Italian Wife*, and though, at present, I cannot permit you to read that play, I

will extract the lines for you." After thanking Miss SEYMOUR for her kindness in giving them so full an explanation, they retired to learn their lessons for the following day.

CHAP. VII.

CURIOSITY.

SEVERAL weeks passed on without any incident occurring worth mentioning, the time allotted for CHARLOTTE'S punishment expired, and she appeared to have derived great benefit from it; her manners were now free from that imperious tone they formerly assumed. In their improvement they justified Miss SEYMOUR'S most sanguine hopes; by accustoming them to converse, daily, on

different subjects, they not only retained those ideas, but also acquired a freedom of conversation perfectly necessary in polished society ; their conversations were chosen from geography, history of England, Grecian history, and holy writ ; they said, every morning, a lesson from MANGNALL'S questions, and in the afternoon, they repeated (but without following the regular course of questions) the substance of what they had learnt ; by this means, it became impressed on their memories, and they could all bear the strictest examination. But while attending to their accomplishments, Miss SEYMOUR did not forget to correct their tempers ; she chose the best way to do this, she taught them to view themselves as in a mirror, and to leave no means untried to reform what errors they discovered ; frequently, too, a well timed

anecdote has been of more service than the strictest discipline would have been: I shall give one instance of this.

JESSIE and ELIZA possessed a fault very common to girls of their age—this was curiosity; whatever they saw, or whatever was said, produced a thousand questions. Miss SEYMOUR had often chid them for it, but without effect, as the next instant they would commit the same fault again. One day, AMELIA received a letter from town, which, after reading, she tore up and threw it out of the window. About two hours after, Miss SEYMOUR was passing through the garden and saw ELIZA and JESSIE extremely busy leaning on a pedestal; JESSIE appeared to be doing something which ELIZA was attentively regarding; they were so deeply engaged that Miss SEYMOUR approached sufficiently close

to perceive their employment, without disturbing them; they had collected the torn pieces of the letter, and were, with a perseverance worthy a better cause, endeavouring to join them. Miss SEYMOUR instantly seized the fragments and threw them away; she then, without a word of reproach, desired them to go into school; when they were all seated, they were going to begin their lessons, but Miss SEYMOUR, taking a book from her pocket, desired GRACE to read it aloud: "To some of you," said she, "I hope it will prove a warning, to all it will afford a useful lesson."—GRACE opened it and read as follows.

CHAP. VIII.

*THE FATAL EFFECTS OF
CURIOSITY.*

AMELIA was the only child of the president de la Motte ; she was beautiful in her person, to which qualification she added fine talents and a most excellent heart : the child of sorrow had but to seek AMELIA, and was sure of relief ; her heart and purse were both at their service ; it is no wonder that she was the darling of her father, who, having lost his wife in giving birth to our heroine, raised her at fourteen to be mistress of his house ; her purse was amply supplied, and, as she made a proper use of her money, she was nearly idolized in the neighbourhood of the Chateau de la Motte, then suffering under all the hor-

rors of a civil war. This was, however, a period in the revolution not quite so ferocious as had lately been witnessed; yet, AMELIA went from cottage to cottage cheering the inhabitants, and bidding them hope for better times, in a voice so sweet, that while listening to her even callous age almost forgot its sorrows. This my young friends is a bright picture, and one I would wish you all to imitate; but, alas! the imitation must stop here; AMELIA possessed a fault, which, though it may appear trivial, frequently carries with it most dreadful consequences—this was curiosity, so insatiable that it never rested. Her father was frequently called out late and remained out part of the night, yet she never forgot, the first thing on descending, to ask where he had been, what had been resolved on, what debated, and

a hundred more questions equally improper. If, as was often the case, the council met at her father's, she would try hard for admittance, and, if that failed, she would hang over the balustrades of the hall for hours, watching the members as they went in or out, to catch a word or two of their conversation; in vain had her father tried to curb this dreadful failing, she was deaf to reproof, and constantly answered, "do, dear papa, tell me what passed, believe me, I will keep it a profound secret, I will not tell a living creature."

One evening she had discovered that the noblemen who composed the council were to assemble at midnight, in her father's chamber; in vain she racked *her* brain, she could not form the most distant idea of the cause; a short time before the appointed hour, she retired to

her chamber, but not to sleep ; the instant her servant retired she rose, dressed herself, and put on a warm dark robe de chambre; she then took her usual station over the balustrade: she had not stood long, before she saw her father enter the hall from the garden, with twenty three gentlemen following him ; slowly and cautiously they entered the president's chamber, which, to the great disappointment of AMELIA, they bolted close after them ; here, then, ended her hopes, and she might have slept, but she scarce pressed her pillow, when a thought darted into her mind, that they would return the way they came ; and, as her window opened to the garden, she should have a most excellent peep ; up she sprung and took her station at the window ; presently she heard a faint blow as if closing a box, and heard a number

of voices say, “ we swear ;” she now listened attentively, and heard her father’s door unbolted, and the assembly disperse, as she expected, by the way of the garden.

CHAP. IX.

THE TALE CONCLUDED.

SHE now strained her eyes more than ever, and saw them advance in the following order : first came her father, cautiously shading the light which he carried ; next came two members of the council, bearing a box apparently very heavy ; the rest followed two and two ; on arriving at the large oak tree opposite her window, they all stopped, and her father taking up a spade that lay near, began to dig beneath the tree ; a hole was soon made and the box de-

posited in it ; they then carefully covered the place with mould, so as to obliterate all traces of the earth's having been opened, and taking each other's hand, which they raised to heaven, they all ejaculated, " we swear ;" they then retired by the garden gate, as cautiously as they had entered, and, soon after, AMELIA, hearing her father lock his chamber door, knew she should see no more that night, and retired to her bed, but not to sleep : the box, so misteriously buried, haunted her thoughts ; the more she dwelt on it, the more she was puzzled ; and the morning found her still awake, wretched, and uneasy ; she knew she dared not ask her father for an explanation, as she must then own her guilt in watching their motions, and that he would never forgive. At last she thought she would attempt to dig up the box, and satisfy

herself; accordingly, when all the family slept, she descended to the garden, and finding the spot, she soon succeeded in arriving at the box, but all her strength was unequal to raising it; she then remembered an old servant named GERARD, so blindly fond of her, that he would obey her slightest wish; and luckily he slept in the garden lodge, she flew to his bedside, and rousing him, begged him to follow her; when they arrived at the spot, she told him her design, and the box was soon raised and opened, but how was AMELIA disappointed to find it contained only papers, signed with her father's and the twenty four noblemen's signatures: she had expected to find some hidden treasure, and she found only a paper she could not understand; the box was shut and once more buried, while AMELIA

retired not a bit more pleased than before, but carrying in her heart the consciousness of having done wrong: but dreadful, indeed, were the consequences of her curiosity; a few months after, an advertisement appeared, describing the paper, and offering an immense reward to any one who should produce it, as it was a protest against the government and the national assembly. AMELIA never even saw the advertisement, but GERARD did, and, after a long struggle in his mind, between avarice and honour, the former prevailed: he dug up the box, took out the paper, and laid it before the assembly, who instantly paid the reward; DE LA MOTTE and his friends were seized, and, after a short trial, guillotined. Thus did twenty five noblemen, one of whom was her own father,

fall the victims of the unpardonable curiosity of a girl scarce fourteen.

Here GRACE stopped, her eyes so blinded with tears that she could scarce see the concluding words. “You have no occasion to weep, my love,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “as I do not think you have to reproach yourself with an improper curiosity.” “No, ma’am,” said the weeping culprits, “but we have, and perhaps AMELIA thought no more harm than we did just now when we tried to—” “Stop,” answered Miss SEYMOUR, “you need not expose yourselves, I trust this tale, which is, alas, too true, will prove a warning to you.”

“Oh,” said ELIZA, “I am sure it will.”

And it did, for if ever, which very seldom occurred, they either asked an

impertinent question, it was sufficient to say, “remember AMELIA;” they were instantly silenced, and at last the impression became so lasting, as to cure them entirely of idle curiosity.

CHAP. X.

THE INVITATION.

THE weeks now passed on merrily with the inhabitants of the cottage, they were good, and consequently happy; and they looked forward to the holidays, now fast approaching, with a mixture of regret and pleasure; they were happy at the idea of seeing their parents, but, then, they were to quit Miss SEYMOUR, and would seldom see each other: none felt this more keenly than GRACE and CAROLINE; the former knew her home

was not so suited to her taste and feelings as school was ; besides, she loved her kind instructress with an attachment almost filial, and the idea of quitting her, even for so short a period as six weeks, nearly broke her heart ; as for poor CAROLINE, the idea of going to what was called home, was to her unsupportable ; her guardian was an old man, and rather a stern one ; then he was gouty, and could not bear young people about him, so both he and his ward were generally glad when school again opened. AMELIA had long thought of requesting her parent's leave to take CAROLINE with her, and now she seemed more inclined than ever, from seeing how much the idea of her lonely vacation lowered CAROLINE's spirits : she therefore wrote as follows to her affectionate mother.

“ My beloved Mother,

“ The holidays are now very near, and you will shortly see your AMELIA; but I trust that you will find her an altered being, no longer the vain proud girl, who thought herself superior to all around her, but humbled and chastened; and this happy change, my dear mother, has been effected by Miss SEYMOUR; she has taught me humility and gentleness, in short, she has taught me to “ know myself;” yet, though reformed in a great degree, I am not cured: but, believe me, my indulgent parents shall see that no effort of mine shall be wanting, to eradicate the seeds of vanity still lurking in my bosom.

I have a request to make, which, I think, you will grant; it is, to bring Miss HUNTER home with me for the vaca-

tion ; I am sure you will like her so much, that if I were inclined to be jealous, I would not introduce her ; the dear girl has no home to receive her but a cross old guardian's, who will be happy to get rid of her ; you will gain by her company, as, if I am inclined to rebel, she will be a check on my flight ; she will play for you, sing to papa when he is melancholy, and be happy with us all. God bless my dear parents is the earnest prayer of their affectionate

“ AMELIA, MILD MAY.

“ Rose cottage, Broadstairs.”

The instant AMELIA received the answer, which was all she wished, she flew to CAROLINE with the open letter in her hand, throwing down all that impeded her progress by the way ; she seized

her hand, and affectionately kissing her, said, "CAROLINE, my dear girl, write to your guardian, tell him he need not prepare the blue or the pink chamber, for the lady of the castle is better disposed of; look here! see, read what my dear Mother says, 'bring your friend, my dear child, tell her she may be assured of the warmest welcome, and that, during the time she is with us, we will try to supply to her the place of her absent parents.' Why surely you are not weeping; for shame, I blush for your weakness, here is pen, ink, and paper, write directly and tell your guardian, and let him know, that if he presumes to murmur, Sir ROBERT and Lady MILD MAY, with their lovely AMELIA, will carry you off by force; there, now you are smiling, ah! CAROLINE, you sadly resemble an April day."

The letter was written and the desired consent obtained, and CAROLINE received with the answer, a fifty pound note for Miss SEYMOUR to make purchases, that she might appear in London as became the daughter of the Right Honourable HENRY HUNTER, of Antigua.

CHAP. XI.

THE VACATION ARRIVES.

THE holidays at last came, and all were soon ready to depart: Miss SEYMOUR gave them, at parting, most excellent hints for their conduct while at home, as she should feel very grieved if she heard a bad account of them on their return; they all promised to behave so as to deserve her warmest approbation, and lightly jumped into the

chaises prepared for them. The house-keeper, who was to conduct AMELIA and the happy CAROLINE, did not arrive till the day after the rest had departed. As the hour she was expected at drew near, they took their station at the window to watch for the chaise, but, to their great chagrin, she came not; and, in the course of the morning, they received a letter to say they were not to expect her till evening: AMELIA was beginning to pout, but a look from CAROLINE restored her good humour. “Well,” she cried, “I do not much care if Mrs. BARTON does not arrive till night, as then we cannot go till the morning, and we have another day to spend with dear Miss SEYMOUR.”

“You are a dear girl,” said Miss SEYMOUR, “and I will make the day as agreeable to you as possible; what

shall I do to amuse you my love, and you my beloved CAROLINE?" "Oh, dear Madam," answered CAROLINE, "pray read us a play of Shakespeare."

"With pleasure, my love, chuse which you please." They both wished for Richard the Second, and AMELIA declared him to be her favourite king. CAROLINE said he wanted spirit; "but," said she, "there is a peculiar charm about those who are unfortunate, they are sure to interest us, particularly when their sorrows are clothed in the language of SHAKESPEARE."

"Oh," said AMELIA, "if it were possible I could ever reach the height SHAKESPEARE has, I would study night and day, but as that is not possible, I will sleep of a night, and be contented with reading and admiring him at an humble distance."

“It is possible, my love, to write very well,” answered Miss SEYMOUR, “without approaching even the worst of SHAKESPEARE’S plays; it is many years since his death, and though we have had many geniuses, he yet stands unrivalled:—but, unless you write merely to amuse the passing hour, I would never advise you to devote your time to poetry: how often do the best affections and even health, the dearest of blessings, fall a sacrifice to the poetic mania.”

“How, my dear Madam, can poetry deaden our affections?” “It does not exactly do so, but it makes us neglect the attentions and duties of common life, and consequently prevents us from being generally beloved, our ideas are fixed upon aerial personages: and they gradually wean our minds, till our

friends, tired with endeavouring to draw out those feelings we can only express in well turned numbers, leave us to our reflections, and seek the society of more rational beings."

"I will never be a poet," said AMELIA, "but here comes Mrs. BARTON."

The good old lady was tired, and soon sought her pillow, while the young ladies passed the evening in listening to the clear tones of Miss SEYMOUR's voice in their favourite play.

The next morning saw them ready by seven, and at eight the chaise appeared at the gate; when, after again affectionately embracing Miss SEYMOUR, they followed Mrs. BARTON, who had taken her seat, and were out of sight in a moment.

CHAP. XII.

THE RECEPTION.

As we have seen AMELIA and CAROLINE safely seated in their post chaise, we will leave them there awhile and follow our lively GRACE to her home. Mr. JAIMESON'S house was situated at the eastern end of London, in one of the commercial streets, and, the evening of GRACE'S arrival, there was a grand party, given by her step-mother: as this good lady had not thought fit to show her husband GRACE'S letter, mentioning the day of her return, he had gone into the country for two or three days; consequently, when GRACE arrived at the inn, where the stage coach put up, she found only a strange servant waiting

for her, who accosted her with, "Oh, so you are come at last, I thought you would never arrive."

"Where is my FATHER," and she was going to add, MOTHER, but, recollecting a former prohibition, she said "and Mrs. JAIMESON."

"Your PAPA is in the country, and Mrs. JAIMESON is at home, this evening, to a large party."

GRACE knew well enough, that further question would provoke further insolence, so quietly said, "I am ready, where is the coach?"

"Coach, indeed, I was not desired to bring a coach; besides, I have to call at Mr. BIRCH's for the ices, at the wine merchant's, and several other places, as we go home."

"Then," said GRACE, "in a deter-

mined tone, I will trouble you to desire a coach may be called for me ; as I certainly shall not walk.”

The girl attempted to remonstrate, but seeing it was vain, she desired a coach to be fetched, and, after seeing GRACE safe in it, with her trunks, left her and went to execute her commissions.

GRACE was now left to her reflections, which were not of the most pleasant kind ; a strange reception this, thought she, and my FATHER too in the country, when he expected his GRACE, whom he had not seen for above two years ; it was by his own particular desire too, that she came now ; and she had written to fix the day : but the coach now stopping, put a period to her reflections : she hastily descended, and, to the inquiry of the foot-

man whether she would go into the drawing room or retire, she answered that she preferred the latter; and, desiring Mrs. JAIMESON might not be disturbed, she followed him to the apartment prepared for her; after ascending two pair of stairs, they entered a small sitting room, where there was a comfortable fire burning; and the servant, after inquiring if she chose any refreshment, and being answered in the negative, withdrew.

As soon as GRACE was alone, all her assumed indifference gave way, and she burst into tears. "Oh, my MOTHER," cried she, "could you see your poor GRACE received thus in her FATHER'S house, what would be your anguish: oh! would I had never left dear Miss SEYMOUR." The idea of Miss SEYMOUR brought with it the re-

flection that she would blame such weak indulgence of grief, and, drying her tears, she proceeded to inspect her apartments ; the room she sat in was plain, but comfortable, and apparently retired ; even with it was a small bed room ; and here she found her FATHER had not forgotten her comfort ; the same cane chairs, the same white bed and window curtains, in short every thing in the room so reminded her of Caernarvon and her own dear Welsh cottage, that she was as ready to cry with joy, as she had been, a minute before, with grief. The servant now brought up her trunk, and inquired, with a voice of kindness, if she would not sup, as it was near nine. She said she would rather wait an hour longer ; but she would ring if she wanted any thing : the man again withdrew. GRACE now took out her things,

placed them in the drawers, and arranged her books on the shelves, which, to her surprise, were empty. "Did they suppose I could not read," said GRACE, "patience, I will soon convince them to the contrary:" after waiting near two hours, in hopes of seeing Mrs. JAIME-SON or the young ladies, she was obliged to go to bed, and soon slept soundly.

CHAP. XIII.

THE POETESS.

WHEN GRACE rose next morning, she judged, by the quietness of the house, that she was the first riser; therefore, taking a book, she sat quietly down to read till she should be summoned to breakfast. About ten, a servant told her

that the ladies were in the breakfast parlour, and, with a beating heart, she descended. On her entering the room, her impulse was to fly back again (as, to her surprise, at that early hour, there were three or four visitors seated near the fire,) but Mrs. JAIMESON desired her to advance: she then recollected herself, and paid her compliments with a grace that appeared to surprise the strangers, who had been taught to expect a wild mountaineer, with a strong Welsh accent; and they now saw a tall elegant girl, of polished manners, and beautiful person: Miss CLEMENTINA, starting from the sofa, on which she had been reclining, cried, “why, bless me GRACE! why have you quite lost your Welsh, and sunk Caernarvon in oblivion!”

“No, Miss ROBERTS,” answered

GRACE, with a spirited look and tone, "hur has not forgot hur Welsh, and as for dear Caernarvon its hurself that will never forget it ; but, in plain English, as I found that your aversion to my accent was too great to be conquered, I found it easier to conquer my provincial tongue."

"Fairly answered, CLEMMY," said a tall youth, whom Mrs. JAIMESON called her nephew. She now desired GRACE to take her seat at the breakfast table, which she gladly did, as she saw they were all regarding her inquisitively. Miss FANNY had not yet deigned to speak, she appeared to be wandering in idea far from the present scene ; her dress, or more properly undress, was put on with an air of studied neglect, while her hair, which was very fine, hung in disordered curls on her

shoulders. GRACE looked several times at her in hopes of catching, at least, a look of recognition, but in vain : at last, CLEMENTINA (who, since the answer she had received, thought she had better not provoke GRACE) said, " I suppose you are endeavouring to make FANNY speak to you ; all in good time, my dear, she is in the skies at present."

" In the skies," answered GRACE, " I confess I do not understand you."

" Why, my love, she is a poet, a translator, an editor, a novelist, &c. &c. and she is now ruminating on some of her numerous unfinished works ; but hark ! she speaks, and she is like the oracle ; she speaks so seldom her words are always attended to."

" My dear MAMA," said the poetess, " is this meal never to be finished ; con-

sider my numerous avocations, I have no time to waste hours over the common functions of life."

Why, thought GRACE, she is in the skies indeed; we have not been half an hour at breakfast and she is complaining of the hours; besides, how rude when there are strangers present, who have not half done their meal.

"You can retire, my best love," said Mrs. JAIMESON, "we will excuse you; but you have not spoken to GRACE."

"GRACE," repeated she in a tone of surprise, "oh! I remember, the mountaineer; but she must excuse me, I have not time at present to speak to her, I shall be more at leisure in a few hours;" and she rose, and walked to a writing desk at the other end of the room, and sat down to write as if there were not a person present but herself.

Well, thought GRACE, heaven defend me from a poetess, if they all behave like FANNY; and now, turning to CLEMENTINA, she asked when her dear FATHER was expected; she was answered, perhaps to-morrow, perhaps next day, it was not certain when he would return: they soon rose from breakfast and sauntered, some to the window, some round the superb grand piano to hear Miss CLEMENTINA play, and GRACE was left to herself, to amuse herself, if she thought proper; if not, to look at the rest, who were all following their own fancies.

CHAP. XIV.

MODERN ACQUIREMENTS.

SHE sat some time unoccupied, except by her own thoughts, and at last seeing that she was not noticed, she rose and walked towards the table where FANNY sat; she had ceased writing and was busily sorting a large portfolio of papers. GRACE advanced with a timid step, and offered her assistance; FANNY gazed at her as if she had never seen her before, and, after staring till she put her out of countenance, cried, “you assist me, child, oh no, that is too ridiculous, I should as soon expect assistance from Pompey my lap dog.”

“I think,” said GRACE, smiling, “I could be of some use, though perhaps trifling, in sorting those papers.”

“ Do you understand Hebrew?” said FANNY, “ if you do you can assist me ; if not, I must beg to decline your offer, as you will only perplex me.”

“ I certainly should,” answered GRACE, with an arch look, “ as I have never been taught Hebrew ; I never had sufficient time to devote to the dead languages.”

“ No,” said FANNY, “ why, pray how could you occupy your time so fully ; Miss SEYMOUR must have found strange occupations for you, since you have neither learnt Hebrew or Greek.”

“ Our time,” said GRACE, “ was devoted to what Miss SEYMOUR considered as more useful than the acquirement of languages which have long ceased to exist, and are now only feebly reviving.

“I must confess,” said FANNY, scornfully tossing her head, that I think Miss SEYMOUR appears to have taken papa’s money to very little purpose; I must at least suppose, that you have been taught electricity and experimental philosophy.”

“Neither one nor the other.”

“Why then what in the world have you learnt?”

“To know myself; and not to make a boast of my acquirements.”

FANNY bit her lips and was silent; GRACE now rose to go towards CLEMENTINA, who she saw had done playing, when, turning round, she saw her father gazing on her with looks of delight; it were vain to attempt describing her feelings as she flew into his extended arms; all my young readers

know how happy they are to see their parents, even after a few hour's absence, and can judge for GRACE; FANNY coloured with vexation till she nearly cried, for had she supposed Mr. JAIME-SON at her elbow, her manner to GRACE would have been very different; at last, GRACE, looking at her delighted parent, said, "I fear, my dear papa, you overheard the confession of my ignorance just now."

"Yes, my beloved girl, I was ear witness to your whole conversation, I arrived sooner than expected, and came in through the counting house; my clerks informed me of your arrival, and I wished to surprise you, but positively, till the subject of your conversation convinced me, I scarce expected to find my own best loved GRACE, in the well

grown fashionable young lady I see before me."

"Then my dear papa is not hurt at my want of knowledge."

"Not in the least, if, on further inquiry, you do not show greater ignorance. "I suppose," continued he, smiling, "you can make a shirt, and translate a French letter without more than a dozen mistakes; if you can, I shall not think you so very stupid."

"Indeed, then, I can make a shirt, papa, and if you will give me some linen, I will convince you."

"For shame, my love, can you not perceive I am jesting, why any young lady here would blush at the idea of being thought useful."

"Well papa, but Miss SEYMOUR always taught me, that to be beloved,

I must be useful to myself and to others."

"Oh!" said Mr. JAIMESON, looking delighted at her, "I fear Miss SEYMOUR was very old fashioned, but such as she has sent you, I thankfully receive you."

CHAP. XV.

WHAT IS THE USE OF LEARNING FRENCH?

GRACE was now the happiest of the happy; approved by her father, beloved by all who saw her, except her envious sisters and their mother, she slept at night but to dream of joy; she had now been some days in London, which had been spent in viewing all that her indulgent parent thought would give her pleasure; her father had

cautioned her not to give the least hint before her sisters, that she could play either the harp or the piano, as he thought their ill-natured vanity deserved some punishment. GRACE excelled on both instruments, but, as she knew they would not wish to hear her, she obeyed her father's injunctions, though unconscious of the reason. She went with him every day, in the course of their walks, to a friend's house, where she practised an hour: on the first week of her arrival she was invited to Miss JONES's (a friend of CLEMENTINA's) to tea; as CLEMENTINA declared they should be very happy of their accompanying them, she asked her papa, who gave her permission to accept the invitation, as there was to be dancing, an exercise GRACE delighted in; when they arrived, they found a

large party assembled, who took no further notice of GRACE than a polite bow, when introduced to her; this she instantly judged she owed to the representations of her sisters; she sat down next two young ladies, who were tittering and whispering together; presently, they were joined by CLEMENTINA and her cousin, the youth before mentioned; they did not notice GRACE, but inquired if they might be allowed to share in the visible mirth of her neighbours.

“ Oh !” cried one, “ we shall have most glorious sport: a French acquaintance of CHARLES JONES is coming here to night; he cannot speak a word of English, but CHARLES has enticed him under the idea that we all speak French.”

“ And I too,” said CLEMMY “ I have left my French at home.”

“ How queer he will look, when he finds you all conspire not to speak, or dance with him,” said Master ROBERTS.

“ Oh ! we shall not make any objection to dancing with him, as all Frenchmen dance well ; but I would not speak French to a Frenchman, for the world,” said CLEMENTINA, laughing ; CHARLES JONES now approached, and the quartetto walked off to another part of the room.

CHARLES took the vacant seat by GRACE ; he took her hand, too, and said, “ Though this is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing Miss JAIMESON, I presume on the privilege of an old friend, as I have the honour of being a favourite of her father’s,”

“ I have heard my father speak of you in the highest terms,” said GRACE, “ and his friends will always be mine.”

“ Then I will venture to request a favour of you ; I have a particular friend, Monsieur DE ST. CROIX coming here to-night, and perhaps his father may accompany him ; now I know that there is a plot not to speak to him in his own language, and he cannot understand English, so that, instead of pleasure, he will meet with mortification, and, as I am under many obligations to his family, I shall feel very much hurt ; but there is a way to foil them, and render him completely happy ; that is, if you will permit me to engage your hand for him ; I know you speak French, and I trust you are above the meanness of triumphing over a foreigner, because he does not know your native tongue.”

“ I will dance with him, with the greatest pleasure,” answered GRACE, “ but, pray tell me, what these young ladies learn French for, if they will not speak it.”

“ I really cannot inform you their reason for such behaviour ; but they cannot see it in the light others do, else they would act differently,” answered CHARLES.

“ Does not your sister speak French ?”

“ Oh, yes ! and I trust my sister will never forget what is due to her brother’s guest ; but, to-night, she plays the hostess to near fifty young friends, and will be fully engaged : but here she comes.”

ANNETTE JONES, a lovely dark girl, of sixteen, now approached, and greeted GRACE most warmly, claiming the same privilege as her brother had done.

On hearing of their arrangement, she was delighted.

“ They will be very disappointed,” said she, “ (and they deserve it,) when they find he does not notice them ; but I must not appear a party concerned ; as, if I do, they will be offended, and here comes M. ST. CROIX to speak for himself ;” so saying, she walked to her friends.

CHAP. XVI.

THE TRIUMPH.

CHARLES advanced to meet his friend, and, laughing, told him, in French, that he had engaged the prettiest girl in the room for his partner ; GRACE, who heard this, blushed deeply, when introduced to him ; CHARLES saw her confusion, and inviting his

friend to join their party, began talking of foreign customs and manners.

It was now that GRACE felt the value of Miss SEYMOUR'S instructions, as there were very few countries but what she could give an accurate description of.

M. DE ST. CROIX had been a great traveller, and delighted to give information to those who sought it of him ; besides, he found a peculiar pleasure in conversing with one, whose pure accent and correct grammar, in speaking his native tongue, he had the politeness to say, made him imagine he was conversing with a native of Paris.

As our trio was mutually pleased with each other, they were not very pleased when the summons to dance took CHARLES from them, who went to claim his partner. After the young

ladies had waited some time, in hopes of being asked to dance by the stranger, and finding he still kept close to GRACE, they contented themselves with other partners, and the music struck up; those who could dance minuets, crowded to the top of the room, in hopes of being asked to open the ball, but ANNETTE made an apology to them all, by saying, her papa had requested, as a particular favour, that he might open the dance himself, and that he was now approaching for that purpose; an ill-concealed titter ran through the circle, as they withdrew to their seats. Mr. JONES now advanced, with a smiling face, and informed them, he was very sorry, but a touch of the gout prevented him from exhibiting his dancing talents, but that he had a deputy in view, who would please them

better than he could ; with these words, he took the hand of the astonished GRACE, and leading her, with her partner, to the top of the room, called for the minuet de la Cœur and Gavotte. GRACE could not sit down without great rudeness, so was obliged to exert herself to please Mr. JONES and her partner, and she succeeded so well, that the former gentleman declared TERPSICHORE must have inspired him to chuse her favourite votary. The whole of the evening, GRACE danced alternately with CHARLES and his friend, and obtained the praise she so well deserved. When they retired to supper, their party was augmented by the arrival of Mr. JAIMESON, who said he came to see if they would give him some supper, as his house was deserted by the young ones, and Mrs. JAIMESON had retired early.

At table they were so placed, as that GRACE could hear all that passed between CLEMENTINA and a young lady, who sat next to her. “She has had a triumph,” said CLEMMY, “but it is over; for I hope music and singing will be introduced after supper, and then it will be our turn to triumph.”

When the table was cleared, ANNETTE requested FANNY ROBERTS to oblige them with an air, and, not doubting her assent, threw open the grand piano, and began to select music, but FANNY preferred accompanying herself on the harp; she sung and played with science, but without the least taste; when she rose, CLEMENTINA played, or, more properly speaking, rattled over a grand concerto on the piano. Mr. JONES then advanced to GRACE, who stood near the piano, and requested a

song to the harp. CLEMENTINA stared, and, before GRACE could speak, said, "I am sure, Sir, she would oblige, but she does not sing or play."

"Indeed?" said Mr JONES, "I was informed by her papa that she could both sing and play; will you not oblige me, my love?"

"I will do my best, Sir, but I fear you will repent your choice," said GRACE modestly: by this time, CHARLES had brought the harp, and stood it before her; she ran over a low prelude, and then sung "Ard hyd y nos," in a manner that delighted her hearers, except her envious sisters, who were ready to cry with vexation, when they saw her delighted father lead her to the piano, and desire her to play the overture of "Hope told a flattering tale," to oblige Mrs. JONES; GRACE

instantly complied, and convinced all who heard her, that, in acquiring one instrument, she had not neglected the other. The reflections of Misses ROBERTS, on their return home, were not the most pleasant; as for GRACE, she did not feel the least elated at the praises she had received; on the contrary, she felt convinced that her residence at home would be more unpleasant than ever, and, though she dearly loved her FATHER, yet she longed to return to Miss SEYMOUR; her last prayer at night was, that the vacation was over, and she determined never to spend another in town while Misses ROBERTS were inmates of her Father's house.

CHAP. XVII.

CAROLINE IN TOWN.

I ought to beg pardon of my young readers for devoting so large a portion of my book to one young lady, while the others have been apparently forgotten ; we now, however, return to CAROLINE and AMELIA, who were received by Sir ROBERT and Lady MILD-MAY, with the most sincere affection ; and, after the first interview was over, it would have been hard to say which met with the most indulgence, their own child or her friend ; Sir ROBERT was delighted, when he heard AMELIA, if her opinion was asked, answer in a modest diffident tone, instead of the overbearing one she had formerly as-

sumed, or frequently refer those who spoke, to her friend, as far more capable of giving them the information they desired: the time of the friends passed gaily and happily; every place of public amusement was visited in town, and their kind friends appeared to have no other thought but their pleasure: the British Museum, St. Paul's, Exeter Change, the Soho Bazaar, &c. &c. have been too often described to need any notice here. CAROLINE was pleased with all she saw, but with nothing so much as the theatres; here she appeared so wrapt in delight that she had neither eyes nor ears for any thing, but what passed on the stage; and to her it appeared all reality; she wept when they died with as much real anguish as if she had lost a friend. The first play she saw was the Soldier's Widow; and,

when Widow Cheerly relieves the distressed family, poor CAROLINE, who had been weeping for them, called out, "God bless her," so fervently as to attract general notice: when they were at breakfast, next morning, Lady MILD-MAY kindly told her not to give such public vent to her feelings in future: CAROLINE promised to be more careful, but added, "in my own dear country, we all say what we think and what we feel, while you English try very hard to conceal your best qualities."

"We English," said Sir ROBERT, smiling, "have learnt, my love, to bridle our feelings under the restraint of civilized manners."

"Then, Sir, you must be cunning, and I am sure that is what I never wish to be."

No, my love, it is not exactly cun-

ning, but we would not wish every one to know our hearts, and therefore we have adopted a general line of conduct in public, in which the feelings are not all laid open to view."

"Ah, well, my own home is the best place ; we have no prejudices, every one acts as he pleases, and nature is our great dictator."

"No prejudices, my love," said Lady MILD MAY, "I think you have many cruel prejudices, which have now been so many years in force, that they are considered as natural feelings. I do not wish to distress you, my dear child, I merely wish to convince you that the manners of your country are not faultless." CAROLINE blushed, as she was afraid to ask any explanation, lest it should expose her much-loved island to further animadversion : they now with-

drew to dress for a walk they were to take that morning to the coachmaker's, in Long Acre, to see the pedestrian hobby horses.

CHAP. XVIII.

A WEST INDIAN PREJUDICE.

THEY returned so late from their walk, that they had scarce time to get ready for dinner: and, as there was company expected, punctuality was of course requisite; they made all possible haste, but did not enter the room till the guests were assembled. Sir ROBERT, after introducing his daughter and her friend to the elder visitors, led them to a young gentleman and lady seated at the upper end of the room. "If my dear little girls," said he," wish

to oblige me, it will be by shewing every possible attention to Mr. AUGUSTUS TAYLOR, and his sister, my sweet EVELINE: you must recollect, AMELIA, my talking of a friend I had not heard of for some time; alas, his silence was that of death, but I will not complain, since fortune has sent me those belonging to him, who can so well supply his place;" he then left them to amuse each other.

Mr. AUGUSTUS TAYLOR was a handsome dark young man, whose manners appeared to have received that polish which is only acquired by travelling.

CAROLINE and AMELIA both thought him a pleasing well-informed young man, but EVELINE made a more lasting impression on their minds; she was rather above the middle size, and

elegantly formed: her hair, of a dark rich auburn, hung in glossy curls over a face and neck, which, for fairness, might have rivalled the swan: she had very little colour, when silent, but the instant she spoke a faint blush played on her cheek: added to a person so faultless, she had received a most excellent education, and never, perhaps, was heard a tone of voice more fascinating: as she spoke, her tones went to the heart, and seemed to carry conviction with them; it is no wonder that our young friends were delighted with her; seated between them at dinner, she managed to draw out their talents, and encouraged them, by her indulgent manner, to give their opinion with freedom; when the ladies withdrew, they still kept on each side of EVELINE; at last, among other subjects, the conversation

turned on their native countries: CAROLINE spoke in raptures of Antigua, while AMELIA said, that, from all she had read, England was the happiest country under the sun. "I was born at Martinique," said EVELINE, "but I do not, for that reason," (looking archly at CAROLINE,) "prefer it to all other places in the world."

"Then you are a West Indian, you are my countrywoman," cried CAROLINE, embracing her, "oh, if possible, I shall love you more now than I did before I knew it."

"I would not wish to be indebted for your love to the mere circumstance of where I was born; I would wish you to esteem me, and then love of course must follow. And have you been long in England? and did you see Antigua? and have you brought any favourite black with you?" were questions all asked, in a breath, by CAROLINE.

“To answer you methodically, my love,” said EVELINE, “I have been here six weeks, but it is as many years since I left Martinique; secondly, I never saw Antigua, and lastly, I have no blacks with me: this is not the land of slaves, you know, CAROLINE, and in a few years, there will not remain even the name of a black slave. See what a flourishing empire has been reared on the ruins of St. Domingo, now called Hayti; they will soon equal the English in arts and sciences, as well as government.”

“But they will never be white,” said CAROLINE, “and till they are, they cannot expect to associate with white people.”

“Why not, CARORINE,” answered EVELINE, “the same good Creator breathed life into us all, but if even they

are white, the objection to associating with them is not, I believe, done away."

"Certainly not, if they are descendants of blacks, it is the same thing; I have seen Quadroons very white, but their features are peculiar, and I should know them in an instant; a West Indian cannot be deceived: but you must be perfectly aware of all you are asking me."

"I beg your pardon, I have been very differently brought up; I suppose you would feel yourself offended if you were placed at table next to a Quadroon, or any of their generation."

"Undoubtedly, I should consider it as an insult; I dare say they are very good people, but they are slaves. I love MARY ANNE, my black nurse, almost as well as I do Mamma, but I should

never think of sitting down to eat with her."

"Well," said EVELINE, "I see my brother beckons me to him; we shall have no more private converse; I hope next time I see you, you will have learnt to be more charitable."

CHAP. XIX.

THE PREJUDICE CONQUERED.

AT breakfast, the conversation turned on the theatres, and Sir ROBERT said he had an unexpected pleasure for them that evening, as a friend had given up his box to oblige him, without which they could not have procured seats to see Miss O'NEIL play EVADNE; and, added he, "I have dispatched a note to ask EVELINE and her brother to join our party."

“Oh,” cried CAROLINE, “I hope they will come, I shall not be half so happy without EVELINE, shall you AMELIA?” “I shall be happier with her than if deprived of her company,” said AMELIA, “but I am afraid that the thoughts of the play would prevent me from being very grieved at her absence; for though I admire her very much, I have seen her but once, and I cannot so soon form an attachment. Here is JOHN with a note on which your happiness depends; nay, never frown, you said it yourself you know.” A shade of displeasure passed over Sir ROBERT’S brow as he read the note, which he folded up and laid on the table without any comment.

“Has any thing unpleasant occurred to EVELINE?” said AMELIA.

“Yes, my love, and I am very surprised to find it comes from one who

professes to love her, even at first sight."

"You surely mean me, Sir," said CAROLINE, "what can I have done to offend Miss TAYLOR."

"That you must know better than I can inform you, I am totally ignorant of what she alludes to; but, in order to justify yourself, you shall hear her letter." Sir ROBERT, then opening the note, read as follows.

"My dear Sir,

"I should have felt myself very happy to have accepted your kind invitation for this evening, not having any prior engagement of sufficient consequence to prevent me, but I cannot reconcile myself to the idea, that, by so doing, I shall prevent Miss HUNTER from joining you; as she gave me a very plain intimation, yesterday evening, that she never would sit in a

room with me again ; and, as she will very shortly return to school, she may not have another opportunity of seeing Miss O'NEIL. In spite of her prejudices, she seems a good little girl ; and one whom I could love if she would let me. I should feel uneasy to disappoint her, while, to me, it will be no deprivation, but the loss of your company. My brother's best regards, and he desires me to beg you will accept the same excuse for him ; with compliments to the family, I remain, dear Sir,

“ Your sincere Friend,

“ EVELINE TAYLOR.

“ 25, *Berkeley Square.*”

Here Sir ROBERT paused, and, looking at CAROLINE, saw she was in tears. “ There is no necessity to weep, my love,” said he, “ perhaps Miss TAYLOR mistook your meaning ; can you not re-

collect any thing you said, that she might have misunderstood.

“Oh no, Sir,” cried the weeping girl, “indeed I am certain I never said any thing disrespectful, or that could give her any offence, unless, indeed, but no, that is impossible ; would you, my dear Sir, acquaint me with what is your idea of my fault, if you have any private clue to judge by.”

“Why it has forcibly struck me now, that I know the cause of offence given, and it has been caused by my own inadvertence : I ought to have recollected your prejudices and not have placed you together, but who gave you information of EVELINE’S birth !”

“Me, Sir, I surely do not understand you rightly : Miss TAYLOR is not, cannot be a woman of colour ; if so, I may indeed blush for my conduct.”

I am sorry to say then, my love, that you may do so; EVELINE's Mother, though a woman who would have done honour to a throne, was originally a slave, but her remarkable beauty and good qualities induced my friend to raise her to his own rank; and, it is said, they were secretly married: she died in giving birth to EVELINE, and my friend found no consolation for her loss but in educating his children; aware that the prejudice of the country would operate against their settling in life, he sacrificed his own feelings for their benefit, and, at an early age, sent them to a friend in France for education; there, under the care of the first masters, they became what you see them, and it is now two years since the death of my friend put them in possession of an affluent fortune. Now, CAROLINE, where are your prejudices? you loved

her without knowing her birth, so all natural antipathy must be done away."

"Oh, Sir," cried CAROLINE, "what can I say or do to regain her good opinion ; it is the last time I shall judge from prejudice ; oh, how cruel, how wicked, must she have thought me, to say what I did ; oh ! Sir, beg Miss EVELINE to join your happy party, and let me retire to my chamber, as she cannot feel at ease with one who has so grossly insulted her."

"You shall retire with pleasure, my love," said EVELINE, approaching from an inner room, when we return from the play, as I think you will be rather tired by that time ; come, no apologies, only for the future do not be so certain."

CAROLINE could not answer, her heart was too full, but she grasped her offered hand, and looking at AMELIA, whispered, "do you love her now?"

“almost as well as I do you,” was AMELIA’S answer, “I have cause to love her now.”

CHAP. XX.

THE CONCLUSION.

The time was now fast approaching, when our young ladies were again to become inmates of Rose Cottage, and even among the scenes of pleasure they had mixed in, while in London; they all thought with joy on the time when they should see each other, and their dear Miss SEYMOUR, again.

On their return, each told her little tale, and their beloved instructress had the pleasure of finding that none hesitated to mention the faults they had committed at home, though there were present two strange young ladies, who had been recommended by

Miss TEMPEST's mamma, and, who, perhaps, at some future time, may require my humble efforts to record their faults, and good qualities; at present they have been so little time with Miss SEYMOUR, that I have had no opportunity of studying their characters, but as I am an occasional visitor at the cottage, I shall have full time for observation. When I was last there, all our young friends were well, and happy: no broils, no jealousies, to disturb their tranquillity; I acquainted them with my intention of publishing this sketch, which I read to them; and it received their hearty concurrence.

FINIS.





